



LDWF INLAND FISHERIES UPDATE 2019

Brian J. Heimann | FRWC meeting | May 1, 2019

SAMPLING EFFORTS & RESULTS

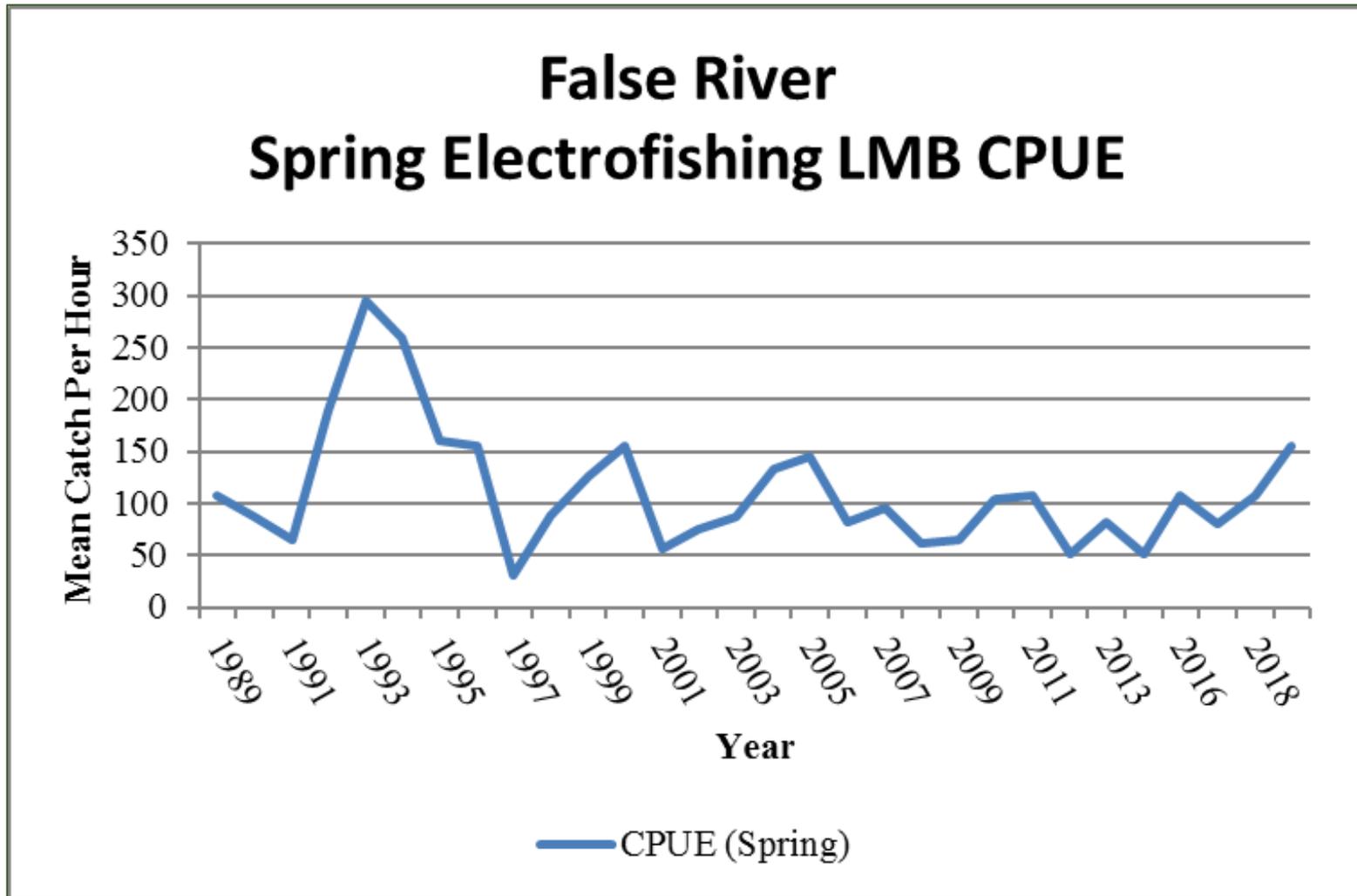


Electrofishing

Primary target of sampling by electrofishing ➡ largemouth bass (LMB)

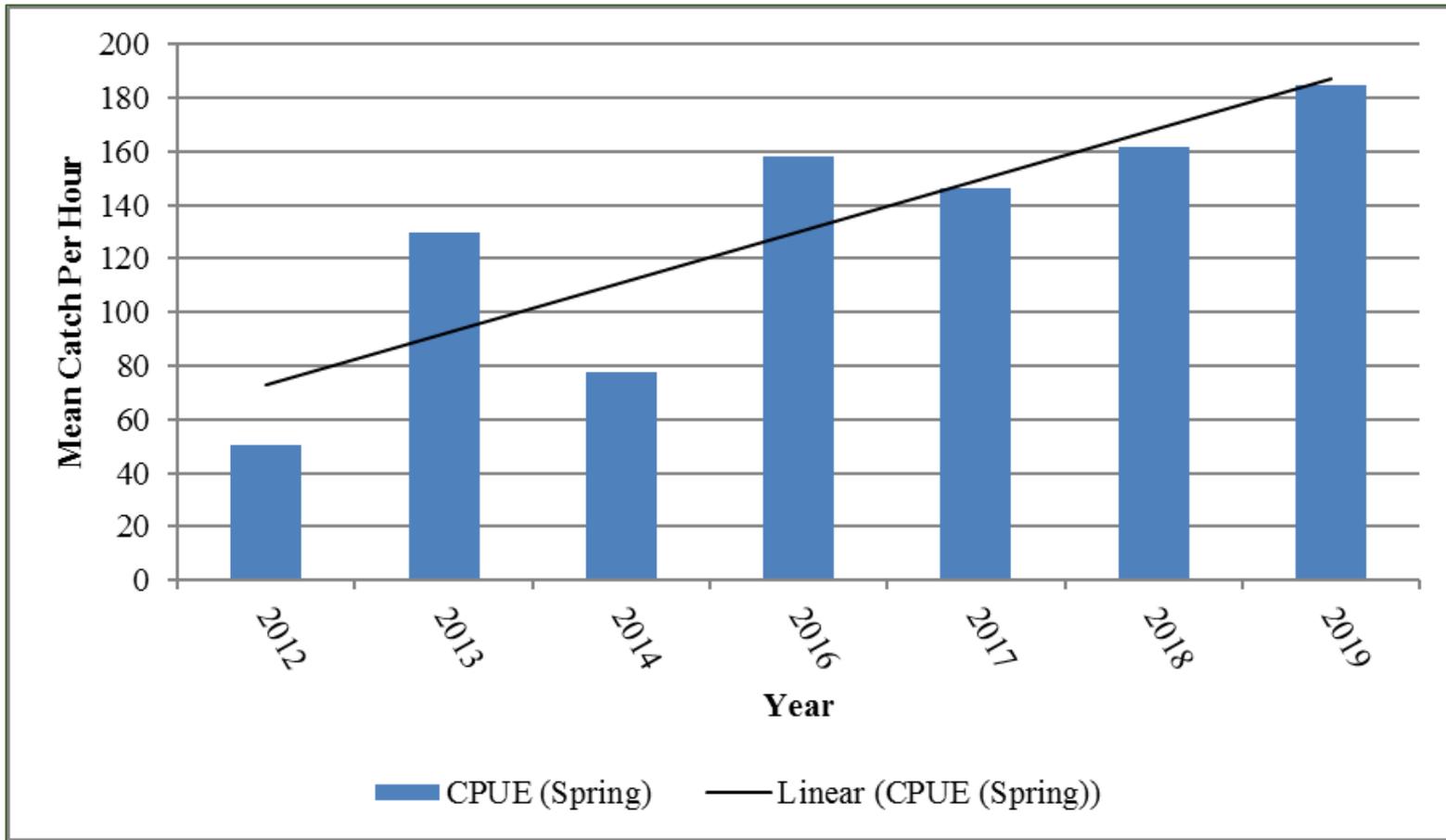


Electrofishing – CPUE



Spring 2019 – point estimate is the highest observed largemouth bass CPUE in 23 years.

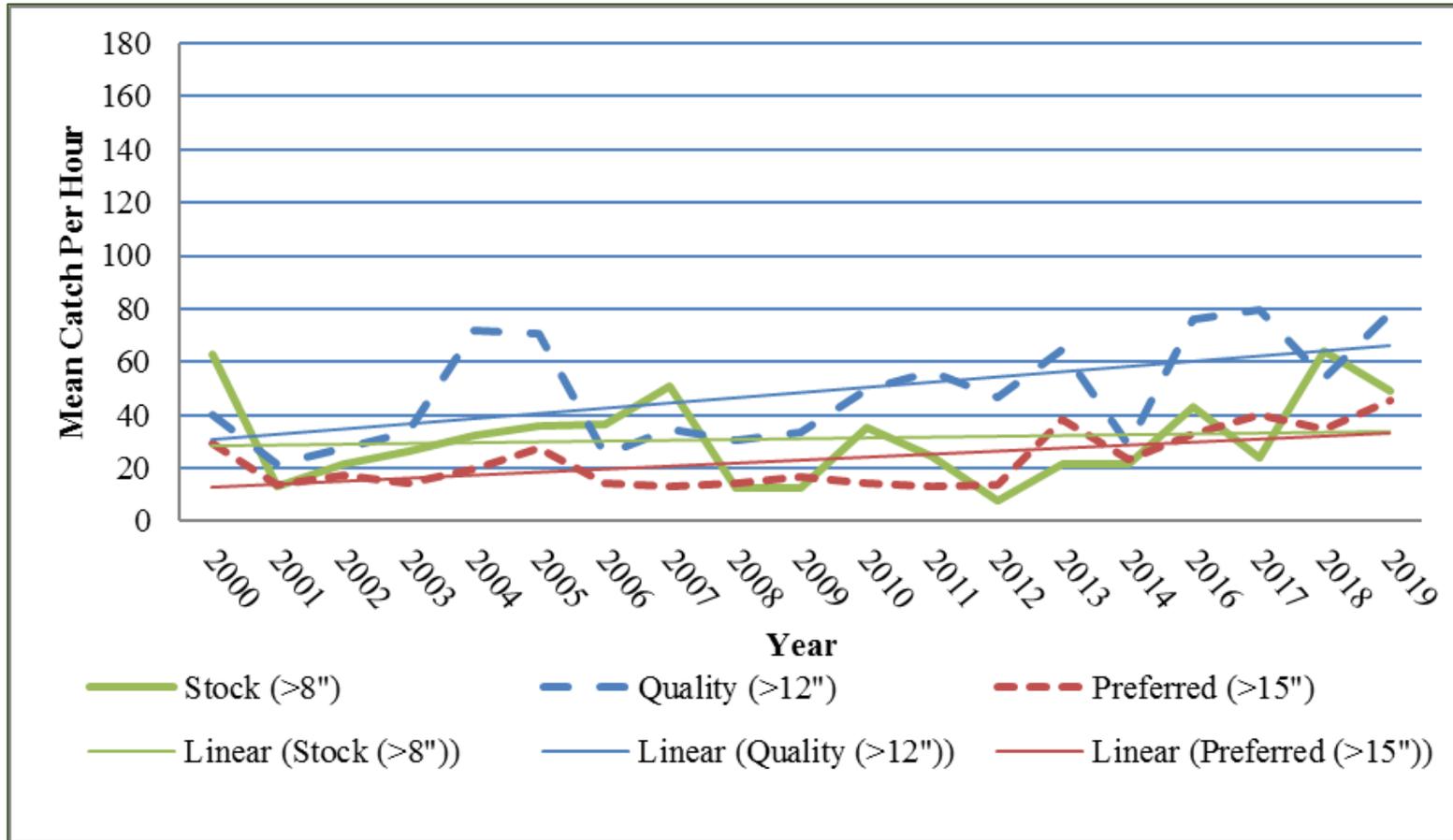
Electrofishing – CPUE



Spring 2019 – Increasing trend (50 LMB/hr to 184 LMB/hr) in largemouth bass CPUE from 2012

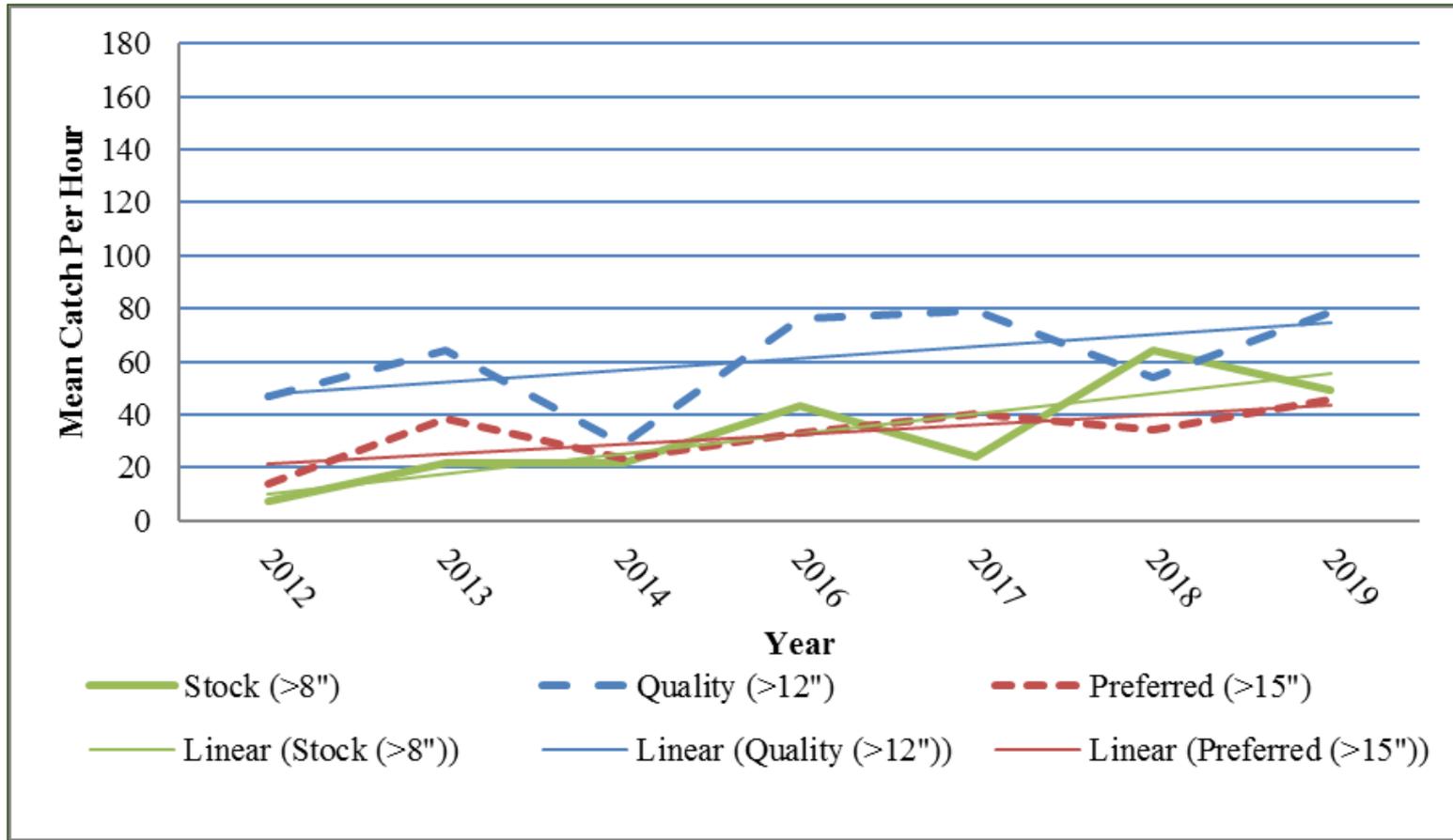


Electrofishing – CPUE



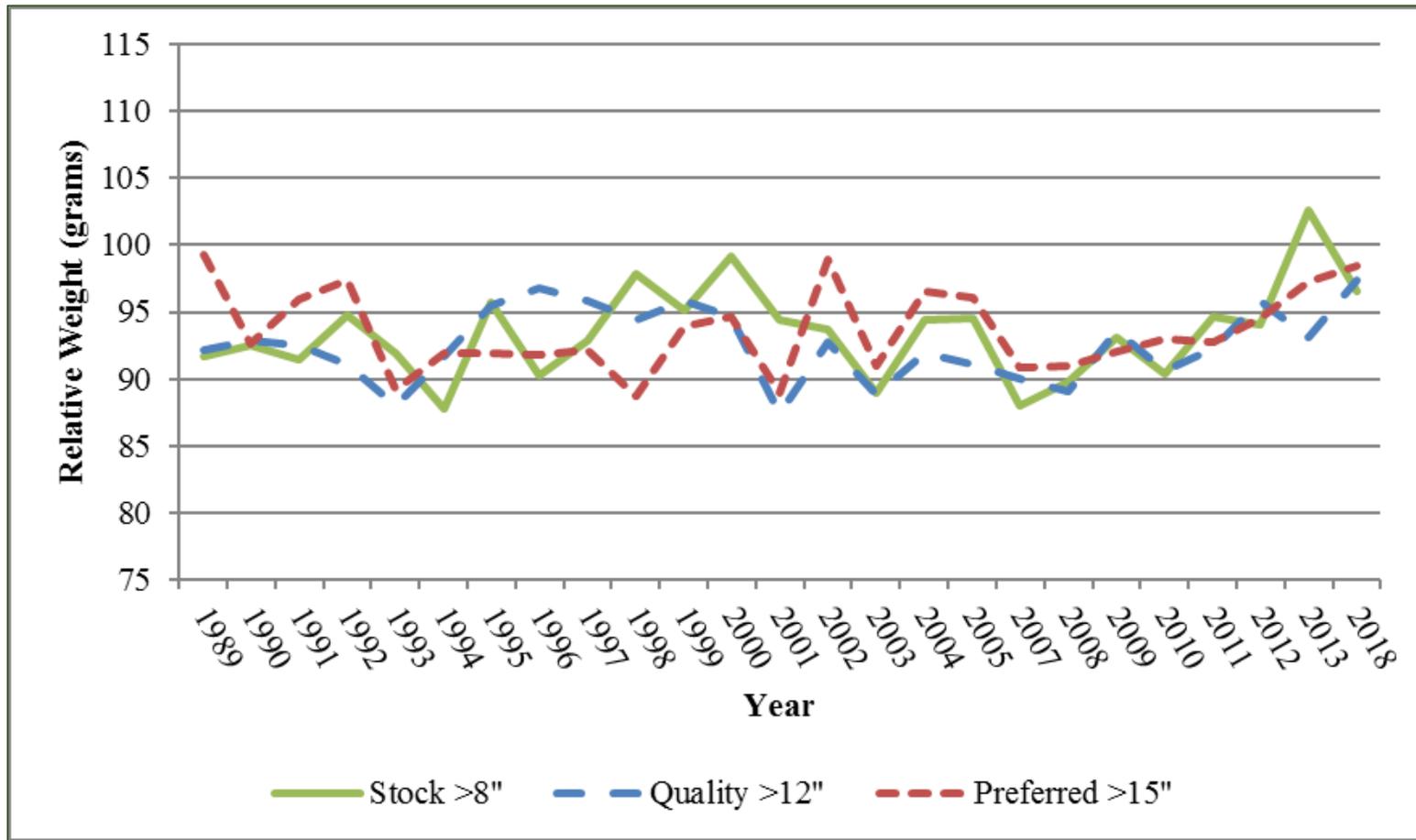
Spring 2019 – Quality size fish (12"-15") at 25 year observed high;
preferred size fish (15"-20") at 23 year observed high

Electrofishing – CPUE



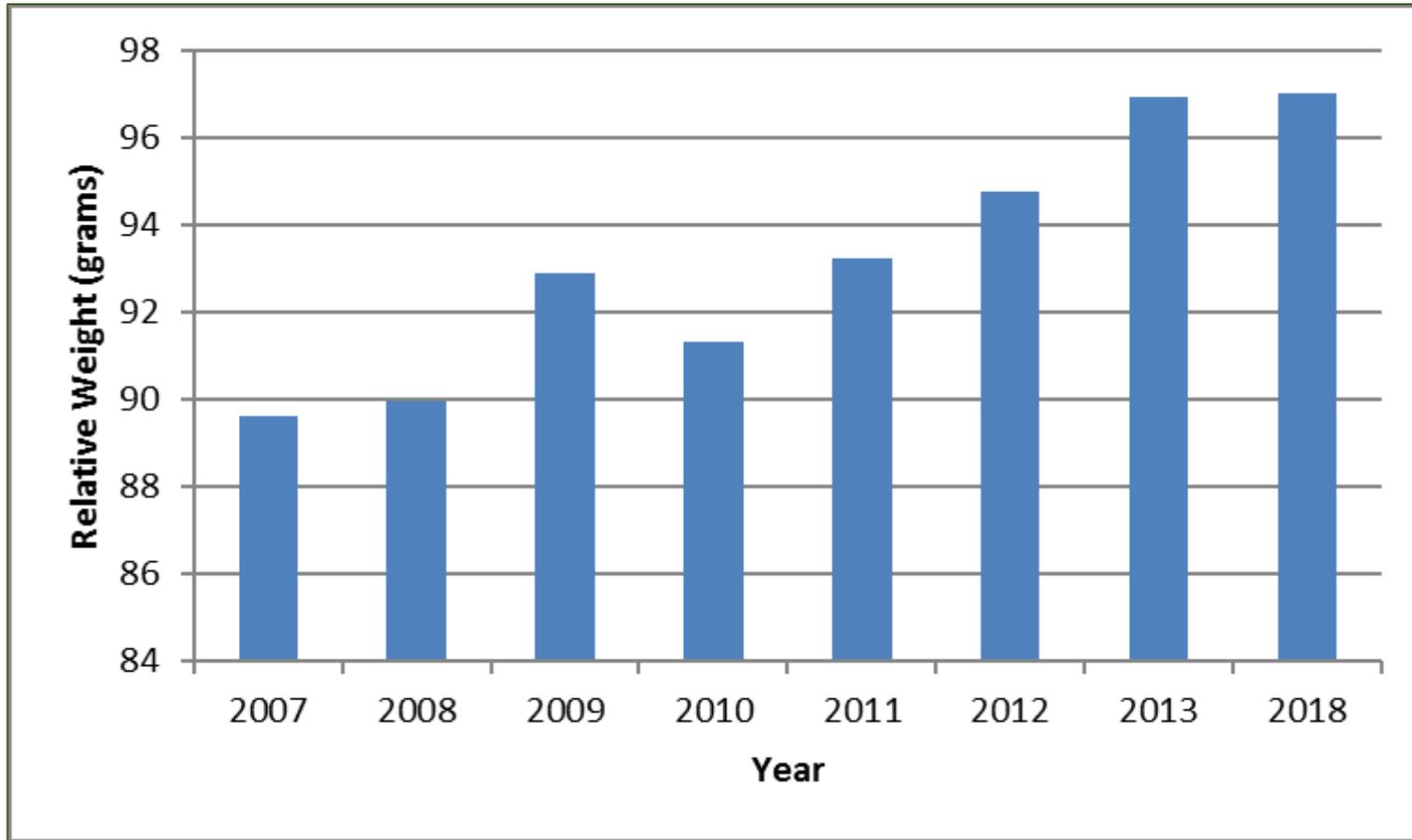
Spring 2012 to Spring 2019 – Increasing trend in CPUE of all size categories of largemouth bass since 2012

Electrofishing – Relative Weights



Fall 2018 – Increasing trend in largemouth bass relative weight over the past 20 years. In 2018, some of the highest relative weights ever observed from False River bass.

Electrofishing – Relative Weights



Increasing trend in largemouth bass relative weight over the past decade. In 2018, some of the highest relative weights ever observed from False River bass.

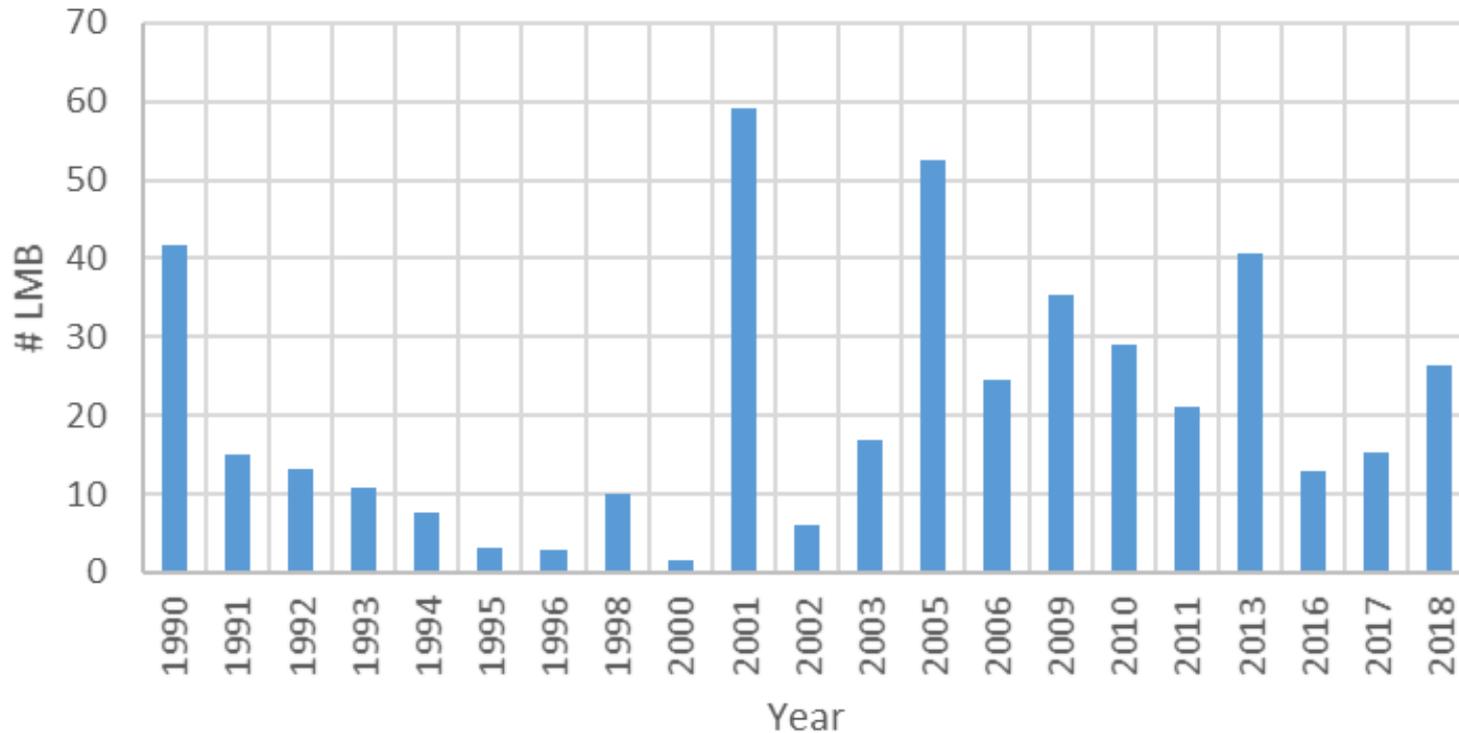
Seine

Primary target of seine sampling → YOY fish (bass/bream)



Seine – largemouth bass

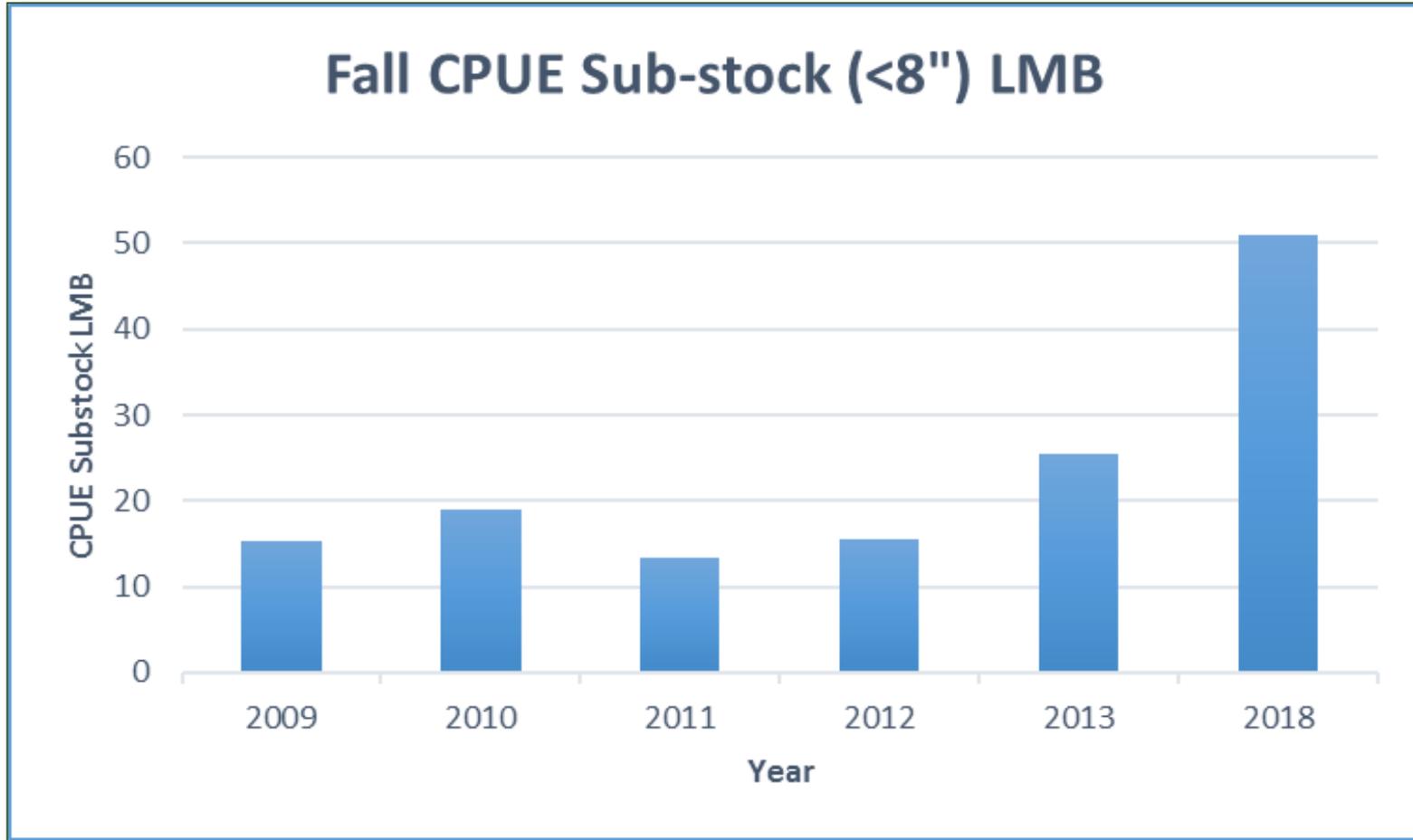
LMB Fingerlings per Haul



Variability in YOY bass/seine haul over the past 28 years, showing an increasing trend in CPUE in recent years.



YOY largemouth bass from fall electrofishing



Increasing trend in LMB CPUE of sub-stock fish over the past 10 years, most notably since 2013.

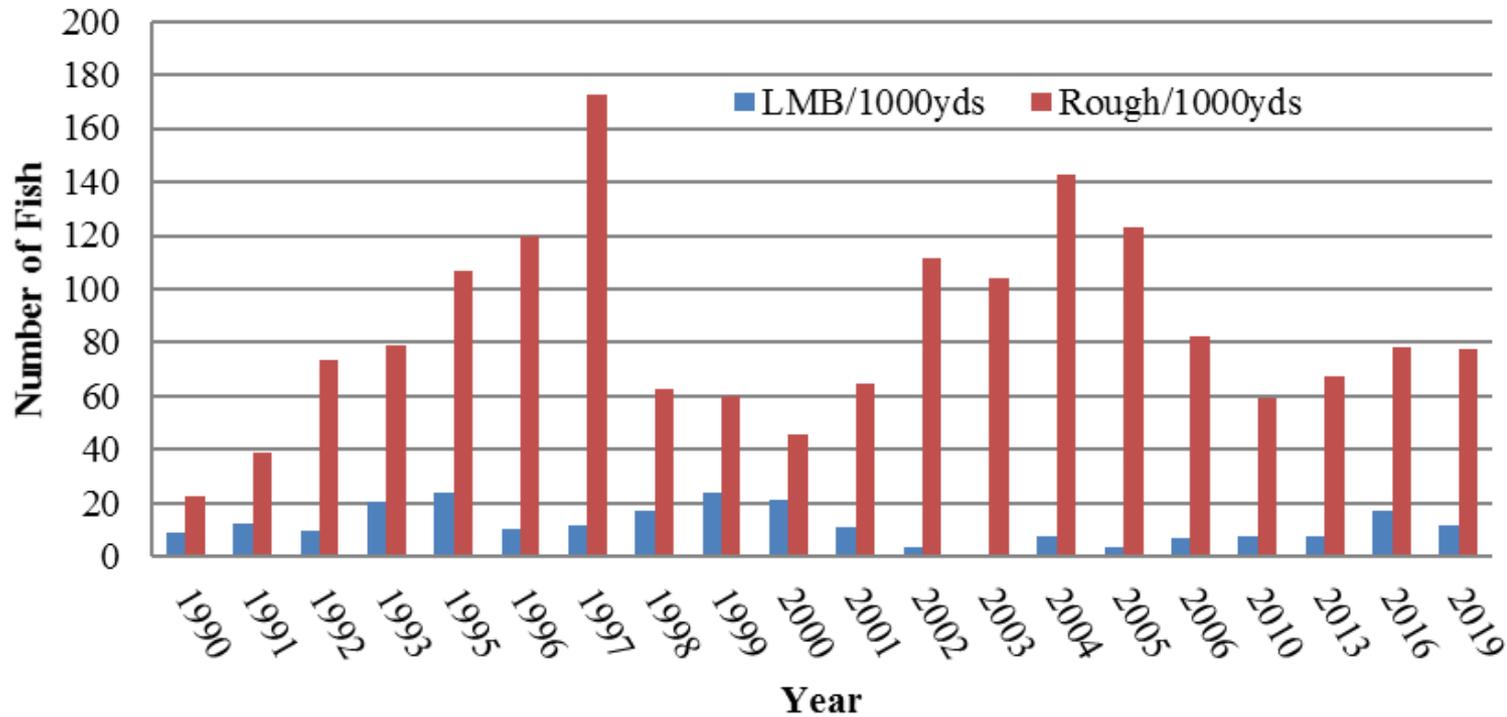


Gill nets

Primary target of gill net sampling → rough fish species (e.g. carp/buffalo/gar/bowfin/drum)



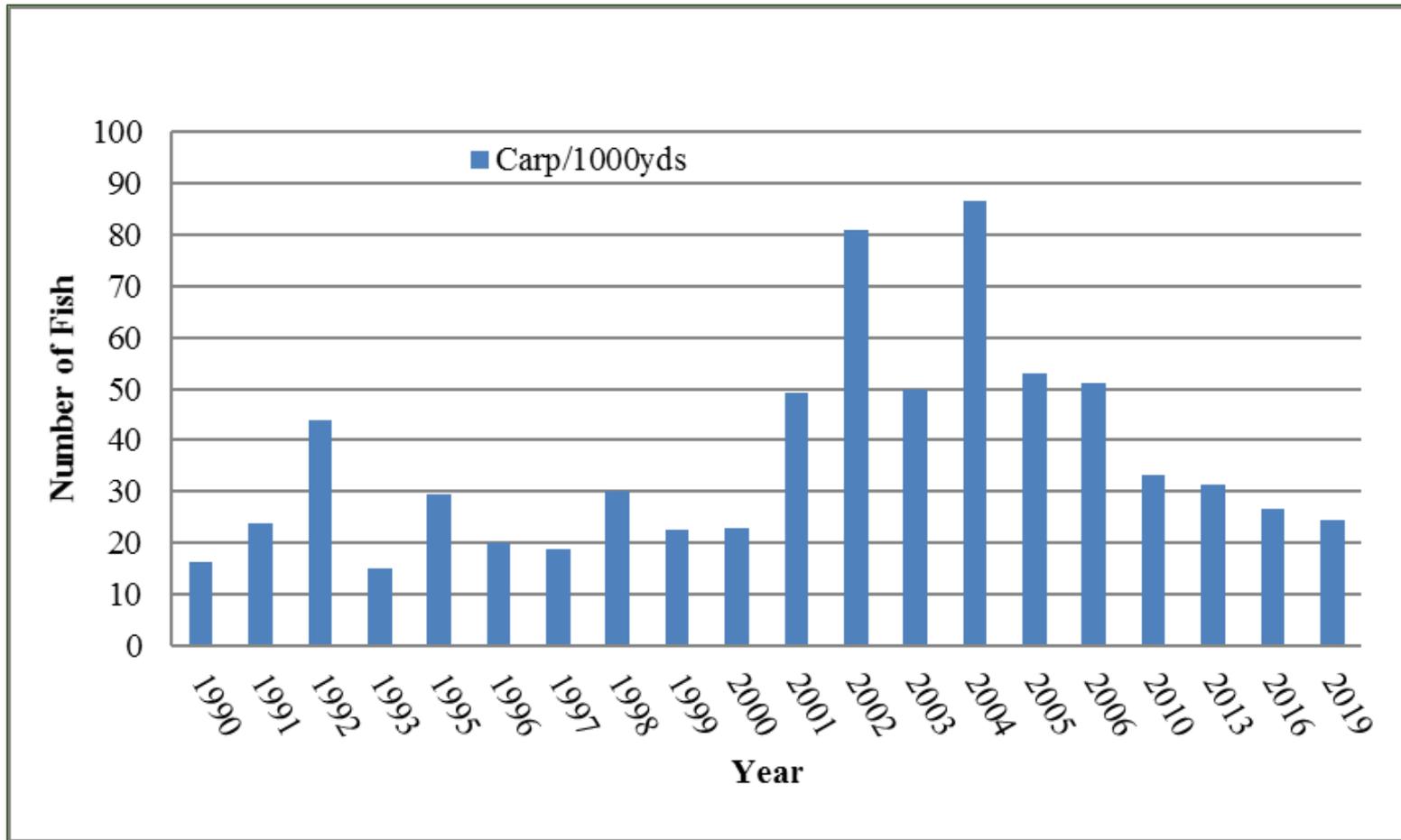
Gill nets – rough fish/1000 yds.



High variability across all years; stable in recent years



Gill nets – common carp/1000 yds.



High variability across all years; steady decline over the past decade



Gill nets – lbs./100 ft.

Species	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2010	2013	2016	2019
Largemouth Bass	4.62	5.89	0.41	0.55	0.76	1.31	1.34	2.02	1.64	3.36	2.68
White Bass	0.49	1.68		0.22	0.96	0.30					
Striped Bass				5.11				1.96			
Hybrid Striped Bass		0.16	1.03	6.61					7.42	10.84	7.74
White Crappie	0.10	0.04		0.03							0.04
Black Crappie		0.04		0.04	0.02	0.04	0.34	0.05		0.08	0.08
Redear Sunfish	0.01	0.03									
Common Carp	11.33	15.22	12.96	27.34	27.08	19.29	23.81	17.62	18.24	17.74	16.08
Grass Carp							0.36	0.55		0.12	2.40
Bigmouth Buffalo	1.02	3.74					2.51		1.18	4.14	4.56
Smallmouth Buffalo	14.35	8.54	6.81	26.43	21.88	23.23	25.18	13.20	15.66	24.30	23.24
Freshwater Drum	0.53	1.63	0.40	2.53	0.38	0.06	0.34	0.66	0.10	1.22	0.86
Channel Catfish	0.14	0.81	0.09	0.04	0.13	0.31	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.10	0.18
Blue Catfish		0.84		0.49	0.33	0.90	1.40		0.88	1.76	1.62
Flathead Catfish	1.37	0.99			0.20	0.37	0.64	0.86		0.18	
Bowfin	1.48	0.42	0.91	0.15	0.45		0.42	0.94	0.46	0.18	1.06
Longnose Gar									1.42	4.34	1.72
Spotted Gar	0.33	0.47		0.48			0.37	0.21			0.18
Gizzard Shad	0.36	0.62		0.44	0.04	0.01	0.20	0.79	0.60	2.04	3.16
Striped Mullet	0.08	5.83			1.50		2.29				
Paddle Fish		3.42	1.26				5.19		4.28	2.76	3.82



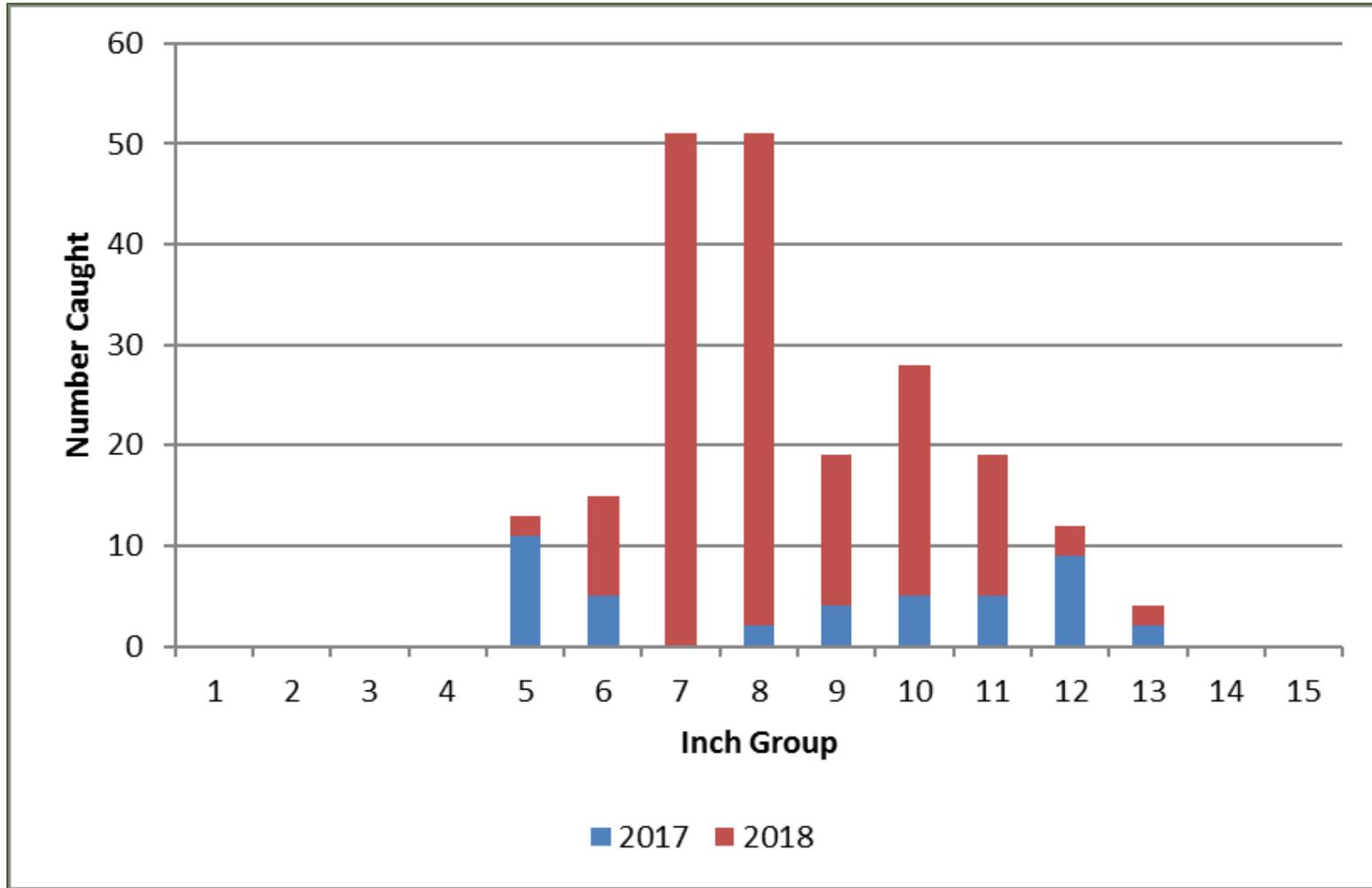
Common carp and smallmouth buffalo make up the majority of gill net captures.

Lead nets

Primary target of lead net sampling → crappie



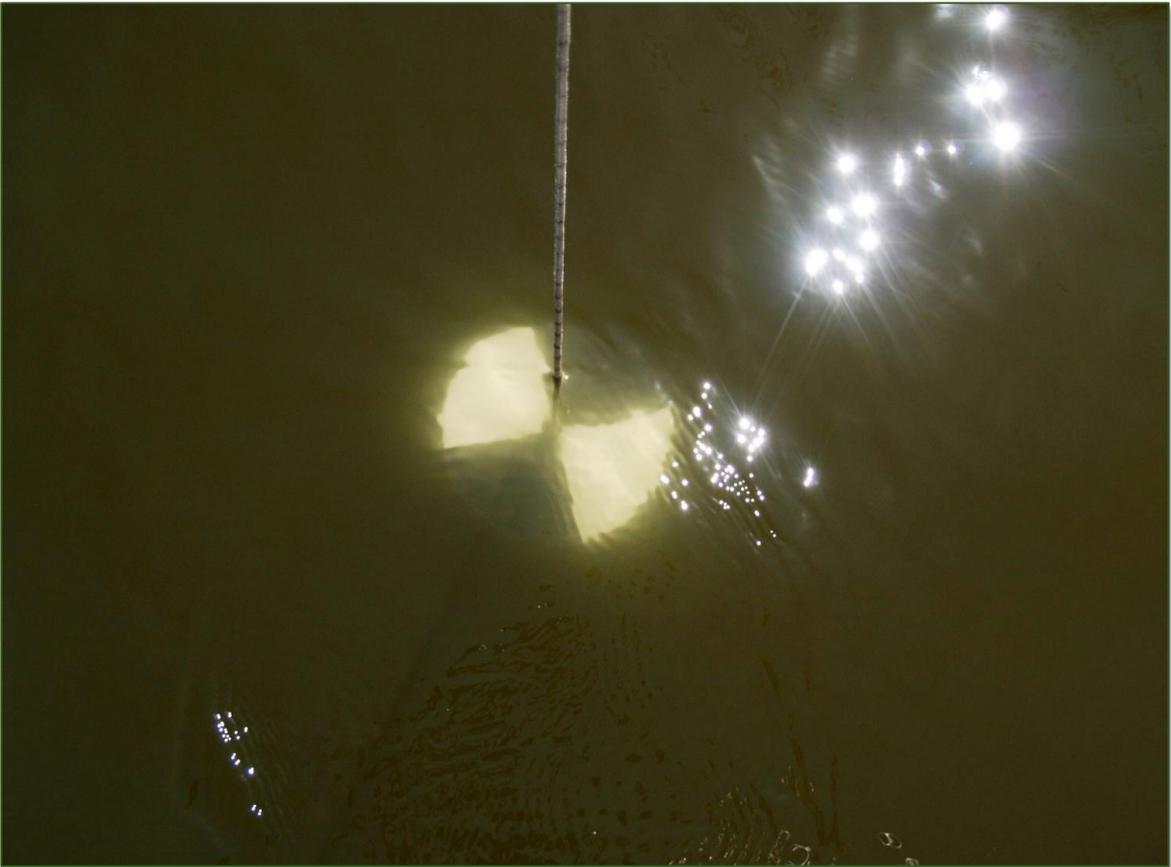
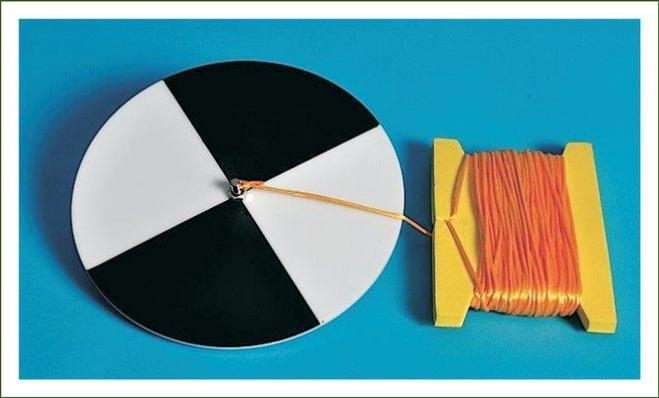
Lead nets – black crappie length frequencies



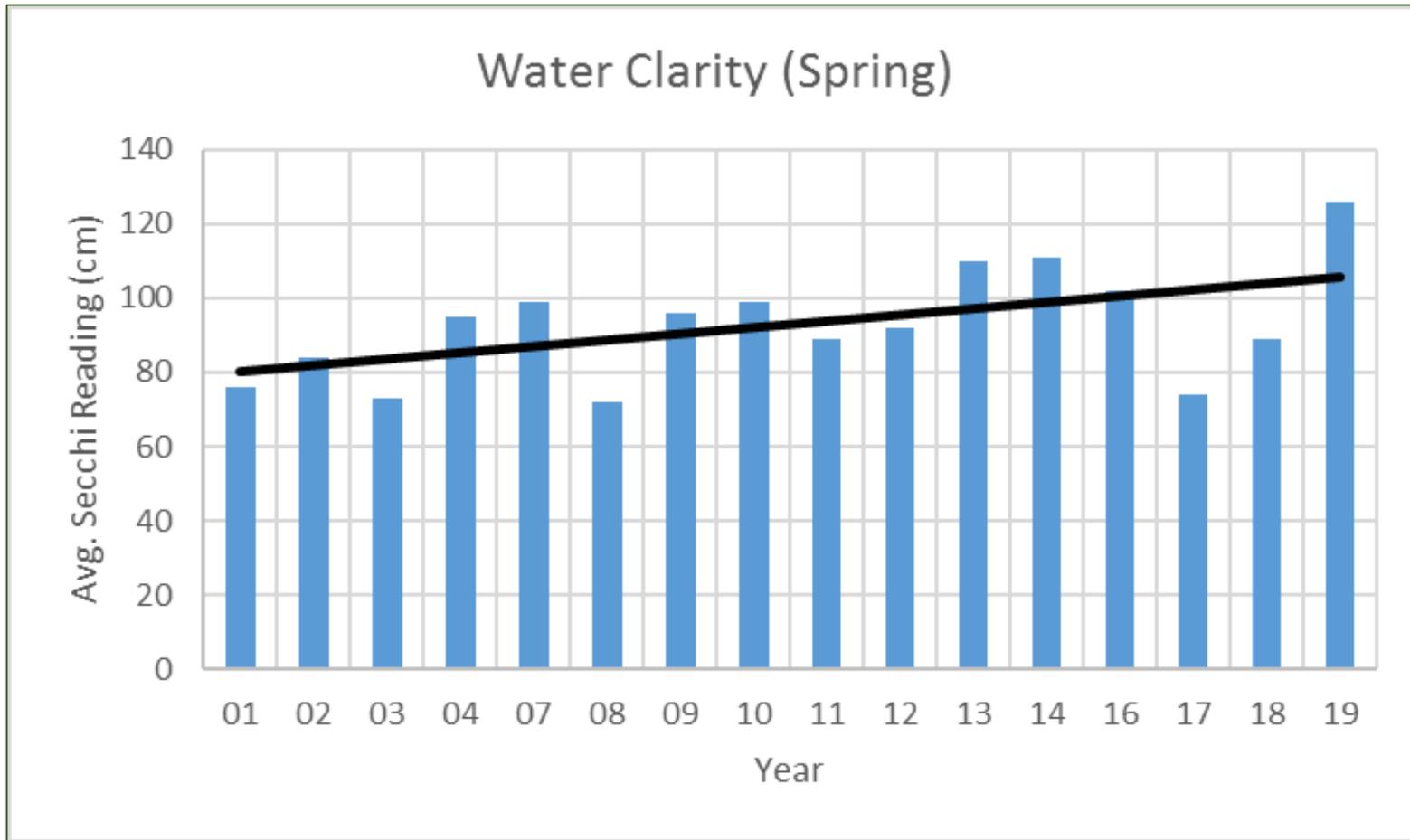
Have only sampled with lead nets in False River for 2 years; plan to continue sampling in the future to build a more robust dataset



Water Clarity – secchi disk



Secchi disk – average readings (in centimeters)



Increasing trend in water clarity since 2001, when secchi readings began at False River; 2019 highest observed average readings.



Future standardized sampling in False River

Sampling will continue in False River, as water level allows.

Upcoming sampling:

- Seines – summer 2019
- No fall 2019 electrofishing, no fall 2019 lead nets – due to low water
- Stocking – Hybrid striped bass requested for 2019
- Spring electrofishing 2020



DRAWDOWN SCHEDULE



Drawdowns – 2019 & 2020



2019 drawdown rescheduled from abbreviated 2017 drawdown. Then resume normal schedule beginning in 2020, 2023, 2026, etc.

RECENT FISH STOCKING



Stocking – 6,000 FLMB being stocked tomorrow



Stocking – winter 2018/19

- 4,828 - 5" black crappie
- 4,682 - 4" bluegill



SPAWNING BEDS



Spawning beds – Total of 16 gravel beds



Spawning beds



Spawning beds



OTHER HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS



Fish habitat – willow trees



Fish habitat – willow trees



Fish habitat – gas pipe structures; excess polyethylene gas pipe from Entergy LA and Atmos Energy



Fish habitat – gas pipe structures



Fish habitat – gas pipe structures



Fish habitat – gas pipe structures

